

SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - JUNE 23, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Betsy Wheeler – 7th Street Neighbor

Concern 1: Even though support the school district and had children go through the school, has issues with traffic, especially with grad nights and parent drop-off/pick-up.

- The address of the school is Pico Blvd., and so the main entrance should be on Pico Blvd. or Olympic where they are major thoroughfares.
- Michigan/7th Street is a small pedestrian street that has the entrance to only a small parking lot.
- Objects to main entrance being on Michigan
- Never any parking on the street - 7th Street is a residential area, not a school zone

Concern 2: The building is massive and is pushed outside of the property line.

- Shade/shadow effects on the 2 story building and local residential area.
- Blocks out mountain views
- Air circulation “convection of the air” is hindered with the big building
- 3-stories above ground affects the local residents living in 1-2 story buildings
- Car-centric with construction of the parking structure
 - o Should be more bicycle/pedestrian-centric

Concern 3: Fire and electrical improvements

- Alarms are constantly going off
- Neighbors are the ones who help out with school security
- Build up mass along Olympic Blvd. not Michigan/7th Street
 - o 7th Street is so small in comparison
 - o Wall on Olympic would be a good location for building use
- Consider underground parking and permeable pavement
 - o More expensive, but outweighs health and aesthetics?
 - o Too much asphalt and hardscape
- Encourage pedestrian/bicycle
- Enhance policing for parents illegally parking/dropping-off/picking-up their kids

Michael Cahn – PTA Chair of Transportation

- Low attendance, scheduling of meeting is off, questionable process
- Does the project allow 7th Street pedestrian bridge to occur?
- Recommend that the auto workshop also include bike workshop at the same location
- TDM – Transportation Demand Management – school should include students, parents, teachers to encourage alternative modes of transportation

- 7th Street Court – daughter is a student that bikes to school on sidewalk because safety is an issue
 - o Dangerous because of car traffic and low visibility of drivers for pedestrians/cyclists
 - o EIR should provide details on traffic and sidewalk/pedestrian safety on Olympic/Michigan
- Traffic drop-off on Olympic Blvd.
 - o Unsafe to construct because of on/off-ramp traffic
 - o Safety issues - not good for kids
- Project should minimize need for car traffic for staff/students
 - o enhance walkability – pedestrian areas are not safe for pedestrians
 - o safer routes (bikes)
 - o provide parking for bikes
 - o enhance route to transit
 - o LEED elements
- Michigan is part of the joint-use project for the proposed bicycle boulevard connecting to Ocean Blvd.

Kenneth Ogawa – 7th Street Resident

- Long-time resident of 7th Street and supports education system and the district
- Parking on 7th Street is only for residents
- Concern for construction machines using/abusing parking area
 - o City of Santa Monica parked bulldozer in preferential parking spaces
- Island/Median on Michigan and 7th Street intended to stop U-turns
 - o Now blocks traffic and needs to be removed
- Alleys on 7th Street
 - o Building will cover alley but important to keep the alley there as an access point for residents
- Drop-off point on Olympic and 6th Street
 - o Concern for speeds of cars and the safety of the kids
- Parking on 7th Street is a big issue

Sean Garnett - 7th Street Resident

- Underscore the severity of the parking issue
 - o Feeder lane from 4th Street could be a possible option
 - o Cars turn directly into parking lot
 - o Better for flow
- Concern for Hazards during tear down of building
 - o Asbestos, chemical spillage from science building experiments
 - o Dust particle emissions minimization/mitigation
- Drop-off is a little too small and unsafe

- Consider underground parking
 - Consider turnout into school property in parking lot
- Michigan not supposed to be a main entrance to school

Robaire Estel - 7th Street Resident

- Drop-off point is a bad idea
- Building should be moved along Olympic
- Concern about air quality:
 - Residential buildings on 7th Street are very close together and between major thoroughfares
 - Air (dust) tends to linger in the area
 - Toddlers live and play here
 - Too much traffic on Michigan – a residential area
 - People are being squeezed out by school district
- Sun blocked out by building
- Poor air quality from dust, debris, contaminated air hanging/lingering in the 7th Street residential area